Reduction in roaming charges

1053. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has informed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India about 50 per cent reduction in the national roaming charges in mobiles,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current status of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) about its new "BSNL One India Roaming Plan" under which roaming call charges has been reduced to Re. 1/- per minute w.e.f. 1.7.2006.

(b) "BSNL One India Roaming Plan" is a special plan under post paid cellular services with monthly fixed charges of Rs. 490/- and roaming call charges of Re. 1/- minute with pulse rate of 60 second. Other call charges are as per the "One India Plan" with Rs. 0.40/minute for cell to cell local (Own Network) calls and Re. 1.00/minute for all other calls.

(c) This plan has been launched w.e.f. 1.7.2006.

Proof of Identity from subscribers

1054. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question 1484 given in Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private players in mobile industry are asking for proof of identity from subscribers after years of giving connections; and

(b) whether Government would probe into such serious lapses of mobile companies posing a threat to the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per licence conditions, the mobile telephone service providers are

required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as subscriber. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to all the service providers. This includes obtaining proof of identity and address from the subscribers.

It was brought to the notice of DoT that the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification. DoT carried out special drive to check this in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and the State of Haryana. It was observed that all the service providers in these places are not fully complying with the instructions on subscriber verification. The service providers were asked to ensure that they undertake adequate verification of all their subscribers as per licence conditions.

DoT has also issued notices to concerned service providers in the above areas to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification and also to explain why action should not be taken against them for not complying with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

Achievement due to Indo-US Nuclear Treaty

†1055. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of Government about the success achieved by India with regard to military and civil technology and equipments under Indo-US nuclear treaty;

(b) the reaction of American investors for investment in Indian industries under this treaty; and

(c) the details of investment by American companies in various sectors upto June, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) There has been considerable progress towards the resumption of full civilian nuclear energy cooperation between

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.